

SECTION III—REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2006. The claims have been altered as follows:

- (I) Claims amended: 1, 9, 11-13, 21, 23-24, 102, 104, 106
- (II) Claims canceled: 8, 10, 20, 22, 28-44, 57-101, 103, 115-123, 137-145
- (II) Claims added: 146-155

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-19, 21, 23-27, 45-56, 102, 104-114, 124-136 and 146-155 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 25-27, 45-56 and 124-136 are allowed. None of these claims is amended herein, so they continue to be allowed.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 10-12, 22-24, 34-41 and 103-108, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1, as amended, includes the subject matter previously in claim 10 as well as the subject matter previously in intervening claim 8. Applicants submit that claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claims 2-7, 9, and 11-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 13, as amended, includes the subject matter previously in claim 22 as well as the subject matter previously in intervening claim 20. Applicants submit that claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claims 14-19, 21 and 23-24 depend from claim 13 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 102, as amended, includes the subject matter previously in claim 103. Applicants submit that claim 102 is therefore allowable. Claims 104-114 depend from claim 102 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 146 combines the subject matter previously in claim 34 with the subject matter of its base claim, claim 33. Applicants submit that claim 146 is therefore allowable. Claim 147 depends from claim 146 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 148 combines the subject matter previously in claim 36 with the subject matter of its base claim, claim 33. Applicants submit that claim 148 is therefore allowable. Claim 149-154 depend from claim 148 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 155 combines the subject matter previously in claim 41 with the subject matter of its base claim, claim 33. Applicants submit that claim 155 is therefore allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 13-21, 28-33, 102 and 109-114 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,371,361 to Arends *et al.* (“Arends”). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s rejections are moot in view of the amendments made to the claims.

Conclusion

Given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to allowance of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 292-8600.


Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 12-6-06



Todd M. Becker
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 43,487

Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles CA 90025-1030
Phone: 206-292-8600
Facsimile: 206-292-8606

Enclosures: Postcard
Amendment transmittal, in duplicate